

Centerville, Ind.
July 16, '1857

Mr Lloyd Garrison

My Dear Sir

35- I have just received a letter from Mr. Hull by which it seems he has been made acquainted with my letter to you written some time ago. He threatens to assassinate me & seems sufficiently exasperated for any thing. I do not fear that but I dislike personal difficulties & I confess my surprise that I am involved in this one.

I feel sure you must have misjudged my motive in writing to you or my name would have been withheld as I desired. My single & sole purpose was to guard you & the anti-slavery cause against possible embarrassment, by putting you in possession of certain facts which would probably modify your policy towards Mr. Hull, & which facts, were I in the same circumstances, I felt sure I would thank any friend for communicating to me, either as facts, or as matters worth

Geo. W. Johnson

enquiring into the truth of what I stated, if doubted, I proposed to refer to good men here whose names I was ready to give. I did not suppose my name would be used, or that you would even apprise Mr. Hull that any one had written to you, unless you doubted my statements & found them on enquiry to be unfounded; but that you would privately & without offending Mr. Hull reconsider any measures on foot (if there were any) by which you & your friends would be held responsible for his character & thus in the end put weapons in the hands of your foes.

This is what I thought & all that I thought in writing to you. If my letter was unworthy of serious notice, should not the matter have dropped? If otherwise, was not my connection with it through a private letter still at an end, unless on being called on I had failed to make good what I had said?

Do not understand me however as complaining of any intentional wrong on your part. I know you are incapable of that, & that with your view of the circumstances you did what you thought just. I do ~~can~~ blame myself however

for having written the letter. I regretted it
after I had mailed it, on the ground
that the truth would take care of itself & that
more harm might be done than good. I
owed Mr. Hull not the slightest ill-will,
& on my part I have made him unhappy.
Had I supposed or had any reason
to suppose that his late observations
were followed by penitence & a resolve
to lead a nobler life & that he was
publicly consecrating himself anew
to the cause of reform as its sincere friend
& not ^{impudently} browbeating the public & laughing
at his vices, no man would have been
quicker than I would to take him by
the hand or slower to throw the slightest
hindrance in his way. I have stood
by ^{him} for years here, excusing & palliating
his errors, & hoping that in the end he
would not make himself an incurably
bad man, till like many others I have
found the task of his defence overwhelming.
If however he will satisfy me that any fact
contained in my letter is untrue in any
respect I will write to you correcting it, for I have
written not a word to any one else & had
dismissed the matter from my thoughts.
I have no time to engage in a conspiracy,

as he supposes, to put him down. He
has unfortunately done that work for
himself effectually.

Mr. Hull charges me in his letter
with many things that I did not
say in my letter to you. As I kept
no copy & shall probably want
to use it will you do me the favor
to mail it to me & believe me

Very truly your friend

Geo. W. Johnson

P.S. The work of Mr. Phillips in
reply to Spooner which I requested
you to send me I expected of course
to pay for an receipt of it. Can
it be had & if so would you be at
the trouble to name it to some one
who will forward it to me by mail?

Geo. W. J.